

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

Kentucky Adolescent Literacy Work Plan Update

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 158.645, 158.6451, 158.6453, 164.0207, 704 KAR 3:304, 704 KAR 3:305, NCLB Reading First

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** A Kentucky Board of Education priority is adolescent literacy. With support from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), Kentucky has had the opportunity to engage key stakeholders in developing an adolescent literacy plan for the state, which the KBE approved in August 2008. In addition, the KDE has been developing a state work plan for adolescent literacy to address objectives, strategies/activities, timelines and person(s) responsible for carrying out the objectives.

On August 26, 2008, the task force met in Frankfort to review the state work plan and offer suggestions for revised and/or additional objectives, strategies and activities and for developing a communication plan for the work. The work plan is attached for the KBE's review and comment.

Task force members worked in groups organized by the recommendation areas of teacher certification/preparation, professional development, instructional resources, data-informed decision making, support structure and communication plan. The groups reviewed objectives and strategies and made recommendations for additional ones, clarified language in areas and discussed strategies for accomplishing the objectives.

The following is a summary of some of the key suggestions from the task force:

- Whenever possible, apply objectives to both teachers and administrators.
- Include incentives to increase reading specialists and reading coaches serving at the secondary level.
- Provide access to resources in adolescent literacy at the secondary level.
- Provide students with access to support systems, such as mentors, to encourage literacy skills.
- Support/assist schools and districts in using data to develop and implement literacy plans.
- Provide formative and diagnostic assessment training and support resources, including determining students' reading levels in content areas, to inform instruction.

- Include the literacy and learning strategies component on evaluation instruments for all teachers and administrators, including Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP) and Kentucky Principal Internship Program (KPIP).
- Work with partners to develop an evaluation tool to measure progress in promoting the message of the plan.
- Identify venues for presenting the plan on an annual basis (chamber of commerce meetings, economic development, conferences, etc).
- Target specific audiences to share plan information who have the means to take action (i.e., teacher preparation programs in literacy).
- Identify key tie-ins to different sectors (e.g., business, community) to show how they are affected by the problems associated with adolescent literacy skills and why they should be involved,

Staff will take recommendations from the KBE at the October meeting and send a final work plan to the board in a mailing by the December 2008 meeting. It is anticipated that partners will provide progress reports to the KBE on a schedule to be determined by the board.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

Literacy is key to students getting to proficiency as well as being successful in life.

**Contact Person:**

Jamie Spugnardi, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Teaching and Learning  
(502) 564-2106  
[Jamie.Spugnardi@education.ky.gov](mailto:Jamie.Spugnardi@education.ky.gov)

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

October 2008